



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris, 2nd District
Supervisor David Bowen, 10th District
Supervisor Jason Haas, 14th District
Supervisor Russell W. Stamper II, 5th District

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STATEMENT ON WORKERS RIGHTS AT PALERMO'S PIZZA

Milwaukee, WI – Supervisors Nikiya Q. Harris, David Bowen, Jason Haas, and Russell W. Stamper II released the following joint statement this afternoon regarding the workforce at Palermo's Pizza in Milwaukee:

"In early June, Palermo workers went on strike against Palermo Pizza after the company began firing employees for engaging in the legally protected activity of organizing a union. U.S. workers have had a protected right to organize and engage in collective bargaining since the Wagner Act, the National Labor Relations Act, was passed in 1935. That law states, 'It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.'

"Palermo's response to the collective effort to exercise this protected right has included:

- The termination of 75 workers
- The hiring of replacement workers
- An aggressive anti-union campaign inside the plant
- An attempt to use a federal immigration investigation to undermine the union drive
- A public relations campaign aimed at sanitizing their anti-employee behavior.

"The above responses from Palermo's stand in stark contrast to the policy of the United States of America to encourage workers to organize unions and engage in collective bargaining. We, as members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, support the rights of workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining. Unions provide workers with a voice at work, create a more loyal and productive workforce, ensure a safer workplace for all employees, and create a collaborative framework for dispute resolution. We urge the management of Palermo's to respect the right of their employees to organize a union. We also urge Palermo's management to meet with representatives of the Palermo Worker's Union and negotiate a settlement to this dispute."

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